Staff requirement of the National Institute of Homoeopathy

986. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta has sought sanction for 34 posts for running M. D. Course of Calcutta University;

(b) whether it is a fact that Calcutta University has no such course; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No, Sir. The National Institute of Homoeopathy Calcutta, had sought sanction for 34 posts for running BHMS Course to meet the norms prescribed by the Central of Hohoeopathy.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Institute of Homoeopathy have approached Calcutta University for granting affiliation to National Institute of Homoeopathy for conducting Post-graduate Courses (M.D. Homoeopathey).

Establishing of cancer registries

987. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICMR had launched in 1981 a major project on Cancer Registration under the National Cancer Registry Programme by establishing 6 Cancer Registries in differeat parts of the country;

(b) whether the Cancer Registry at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh is one of the six centres established in 1981; and

(c) if so, what is the present status of that registry, the status of the Staff working in that centre since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Medical Research initiated National Cancer Registry Programme in 1981, with 3 population based cancer registries at Bombay, Bangalore and Madras, and 3 hospital cancer registries at Chandigarh, Dibrugarh and Trivandrum.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The registry at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh has completed 10 years of existence. The staff on the registry has been employed as per the norms of National Cancer Registry Programme. The sanctioned staff on the Hospital Cancer Registry is 1 Senior Research Officer (Medical, 1 Senior Biostatistician, 1 Senior Research Fellow, 1 Medical Records Officer, 2 Social Investigators, 4 Clearical Staff, 1 Coding Cleark and 1 Typist. Realizing the fact that cancer registration is a long term activity, the Council recommended to the host institutions|states that cancer registries along with the staff on it should be made permanent.

India's late reaction to AIDS

988. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in The Times of India dated February 10, 1992 under the caption "India reacted late to AIDS, says expert";

(b) if so, whether the country is still in the data collecting satge;

(c) whether there are nearly two million potential AIDS carriers in the country; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The Government has seen the news item. (b) to (d) Surveillance for detecting HIV infection among groups practising at risk behaviour was initiated in October, 85. As of 1st February, 1992, 6683 persons practising at risk behaviour were found to be positive, out of a total number of 12,73,829 persons screened. This indicates a sero positivity rate of 5.25 per 1000 amongst groups practising at risk behaviour. There are no reliable estimates regarding the prevalence of HIV infection in general population.

The National AIDS Control Programme was started from 1987 with emphasis on Blood safety and organising surveillance throughout the country.

With a view to preventing spread of HIV infection in the country, a comprehensive project was formulated and posed to the World Bank for financial assistance. The project would involve an outlay of Rs. 229.5 crores, and would be implemented for five years beginning from 1st April, 1992. Negotiations have been concluded with the World Bank and an assistance of Rs. 270 crores is expected to be available from international Development Association (a Soft Loan Affiliate of World Bank for financing the project. Under the project, the following areas will be strengthened:—

— Programme Management
— Surveillance
— Blood Safety
— Information, Education and Communication
— Control of sexually transmitted diseases
— Condom promotion
— Cess management.

Manufacture of Chocolates

989. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some leading brands of Chocolates manufactured in the country contain a carcinomated to have come down to the level of than maximum permissible limit;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Environmental Research Laboratory, Lucknow, which is a small private laboratory, has screened a few samples of chocolates and reported that they show higher nickel content in chocolates. However, the result of samples of chocolate analysed at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, a permanent research centre under the Indian Council of Medical Research have been found to be in agreement with values reported from Denmark i.e. with a mean figure of 1.26 mg/kg. Latest report of WHO has mentioned that there is lack of evidence of a carcinogenic risk from oral exposure of nickel. In fact, nickel has been shown as an essential trace metal in some plants and bactarial enzymes. Based on this information, the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, has opined that there is no need to lay down any maximum limit of nickel in chocolate.

Infant mortality rates

990. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mortality rate among the children in the country has gone down in the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;